

### **Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (withdrawn). A hydraulic fixing agent that is based on Portland cement, a sulphate and aluminum component that is usual in this system, and optionally other additives, characterized in that, according to DIN 18156 (Part 2, Sec. 5.2.2.2, 5.2.2.3a) and 5.2.2.4), the hydraulically bonded fixing agent, has (1) an adhesive pull strength of at least approximately  $0.15 \text{ N/mm}^2$  when acted upon by water for 40 hours and (2) an adhesive pull strength of at most approximately  $0.10 \text{ N/mm}^2$  when acted upon by an aqueous sulphate solution and/or an aqueous solution of an aluminum salt, each with a pH value of 12.5, for 40 hours.
2. (withdrawn). The hydraulic fixing agent as defined in Claim 1, characterized in that the adhesive pull strength should amount to at least approximately  $0.2 \text{ N/mm}^2$ , in particular at least approximately  $0.3 \text{ N/mm}^2$  when acted upon by water.
3. (withdrawn). The hydraulic fixing agent as defined in Claim 1 or Claim 2, characterized in that the adhesive pull strength should amount to at most approximately  $0.075 \text{ N/mm}^2$ , in particular at most approximately  $0.05 \text{ N/mm}^2$  when acted upon by an aqueous sulphate solution or an aqueous solution of an aluminum salt.
4. (withdrawn). The hydraulic fixing agent as defined in Claim 1, characterized in that the sulphate component is present in the form of calcium sulphate, anhydrite, gypsum (dihydrate),  $\alpha$  and  $\beta$  semihydrates of calcium sulphate, magnesium sulphates, alkali sulphates, iron sulphate, sodium and calcium hydrogen sulphate, and mixed sulphates.

5. (withdrawn). The hydraulic fixing agent as defined in claim 1, characterized in that the aluminum component is present as calcium-aluminum cement, high-alumina cement, aluminum sulphate, sulpho-aluminate cement (SAC), and/or expanding cement.
6. (withdrawn). The hydraulic fixing agent as defined in claim 1, characterized in that approximately 0.05 to 5 parts by weight of sulphate component and approximately 0.05 to 20 parts by weight of aluminum component are used for 1 part-wt of Portland cement.
7. (withdrawn). The hydraulic fixing agent as defined in at claim 1, characterized in that the agent further comprises one or more of the group consisting of fillers, cellulose ether, set-up agents, inhibitors, accelerants, wetting agents, pore-forming agents, thickeners, liquifiers and/or organic fixing agents as additives.
8. (currently amended). A method for reducing the cohesion of a layer of bonded fixing agent, obtained with an hydraulic fixing agent that is based on Portland cement, a sulphate and aluminum component, and optionally other additives, wherein the hydraulically fixing agent, has (1) an adhesive pull strength of at least approximately 0.15 N/mm<sup>2</sup> when acted upon by water for 40 hours and (2) an adhesive pull strength of at most approximately 0.10 N/mm<sup>2</sup> when acted upon by an aqueous sulphate solution and/or an aqueous solution of an aluminum salt, each with a pH value of 12.5, for 40 hours ~~as defined in claim 1~~, characterized in that the layer of bonded fixing agent is treated with an aqueous sulphate solution and/or an aqueous solution of an aluminum salt, each of which has a pH of at least approximately 7.5, ~~in particular at least approximately 9 to 14~~, and the layer of bonded fixing agent with its ~~its~~ cohesion reduced is removed.
9. (currently amended). The method as defined in Claim 8, characterized in that a water-soluble alkali and/or earth alkali sulphate or mixture of alkali and earth alkali sulphate is used as the aqueous sulphate solution and/or a water-soluble alkali or earth alkali aluminate is used as the aqueous solution of an aluminum salt.

10. (currently amended). The method as defined in Claim 8, characterized in that the aqueous sulphate solution is used in a concentration of approximately 0.1 to 30%-wt, in particular from approximately 1 to 20%-wt, and the aqueous solution of the aluminum salt is used in a concentration of approximately 0.1 to 70%-wt, in particular from approximately 1 to 50%-wt.
11. (original). The method as defined in claim 8, characterized in that the layer of bonded fixing agent is sprayed with the aqueous sulphate solution and/or the aqueous solution of an aluminum salt.
12. (original). The method as defined in claim 8, characterized in that incorporated in the layer of bonded fixing agent there is a textile material that is brought into contact with the aqueous sulphate solution or the aqueous solution of an aluminum salt, in order to moisten the interior of the layer of bonded fixing agent.
13. (original). The method as defined in Claim 12, characterized in that a fabric or a non-woven textile is used as textile material.
14. (original). The method as defined in Claim 12, characterized in that the textile material has a water absorbency (as measured according to DIN 53923, dated January 1978) of approximately 1 to 5000%-wt, in particular of approximately 10 to 4000%-wt and/or a tear resistance (as measured according to DIN 53857) of approximately 5 to 1000 N/5cm, in particular from approximately 10 to 800 N/5cm.
15. (currently amended). The method as defined in claim 12, characterized in that the textile material is hydrophilic, and is in particular of cellulose, cellulose acetate, cotton, hemp, jute, sisal, flax, plastics, optionally surface coated, and/or so-called microfibres.
16. (currently amended). The method as defined in Claim 8, characterized in that a covering layer is formed on the layer of bonded fixing agent, this being in particular in the form of

~~ceramic tiles; plastic, glass, metal or wood panels; colour coatings; and/or textile materials.~~

17. (currently amended). The method as defined in Claim 8, characterized in that once the cohesion has been reduced, the layer of bonded fixing agent is removed from ~~the a~~ subsurface, that is optionally bonded to the covering layer.
18. (currently amended). The method as defined in Claim 8, characterized in that the aqueous sulphate solution or the aqueous solution of the aluminum salt acts on the layer of bonded fixing agent for at least approximately five hours, ~~in particular approximately 12 to 48 hours.~~
19. (new). The method as defined in Claim 8, wherein the pH is in the range of approximately 9 to 14.
20. (new). The method as defined in Claim 10, characterized in that the aqueous sulphate solution is used in a concentration of from approximately 1 to 20%-wt.
21. (new). The method as defined in Claim 10, characterized in that the aqueous solution of the aluminum salt is used in a concentration of from approximately 1 to 50%-wt.
22. (new). The method as defined in claim 15, characterized in that the textile material is selected from the group consisting of cellulose, cellulose acetate, cotton, hemp, jute, sisal, flax, plastics, surface coated microfibres, uncoated microfibres or mixtures thereof.
23. (new). The method as defined in Claim 16, characterized in that a covering layer is formed in the form of ceramic tiles; plastic, glass, metal or wood panels; colour coatings; textile materials, or mixtures thereof.

24. (new). The method as defined in Claim 18, characterized in that the aqueous sulphate solution or the aqueous solution of the aluminum salt acts on the layer of bonded fixing agent for approximately 12 to 48 hours.